



# There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension Hanif Abdurraqib

Award-winning poet, essayist, cultural critic, and 2021 MacArthur Fellow.

## Ross Gay, Ph.D.

Bestselling author, essayist, and award-winning poet. Ruth Lilly Professor of English at Indiana University.

**Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:00 PM (on Zoom)**

**Register: [www.bit.ly/HAFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/HAFANWebinar)**

**BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY, sponsored by FAN! Details on Zoom registration page.**

Presented by **Family Action Network (FAN)**, in partnership with

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This event is #freeandopentothepublic and will be recorded. Suitable for youth 12+. [familyactionnetwork.net](http://familyactionnetwork.net)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: HANIF ABDURRAQIB – ON ZOOM**

**CONTACT:** Lonnie Stonitsch, Executive Director of FAN, lonnie@familyactionnetwork.net

**Thursday, April 11, 2024, 7:00 PM, There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension, a FAN webinar featuring Hanif Abdurraqib, in conversation with Ross Gay, Ph.D. (FAN '23).**

**REGISTER:** [www.bit.ly/HAFANWebinar](http://www.bit.ly/HAFANWebinar)

**BONUS BOOK GIVEAWAY!** We are giving away copies of *There's Always This Year* to randomly selected Zoom attendees. Details on the webinar registration page.

*There's Always This Year: On Basketball and Ascension* is award-winning poet, essayist, and cultural critic **Hanif Abdurraqib's** poignant, personal reflection on basketball, talent, and allegiance, and of course, LeBron James. Growing up in Columbus, Ohio in the 1990s, Abdurraqib witnessed a golden era of basketball, one in which legends like LeBron were forged, and countless others weren't. His lifelong love of the game leads Abdurraqib into a lyrical, historical, and emotionally rich exploration of what it means to make it, who we think deserves success, the tensions between excellence and expectation, and the very notion of role models, all of which he expertly weaves together with intimate, personal storytelling. "Here is where I would like to tell you about the form on my father's jump shot," Abdurraqib writes. "The truth, though, is that I saw my father shoot a basketball only one time."

*There's Always This Year* is a triumph, brimming with joy, pain, solidarity, comfort, outrage, and hope. No matter the subject of his keen focus – whether it's basketball, music, or performance – Abdurraqib's exquisite writing is always poetry, always profound, and always a clarion call to radically reimagine how we think about our culture, our country, and ourselves.

Abdurraqib (FAN '21) will be in conversation with **Ross Gay, Ph.D.** (FAN '23), the *New York Times* bestselling author of the essay collections *The Book of (More) Delights*, *The Book of Delights*, and *Inciting Joy* and four books of poetry. His *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* won the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award; and *Be Holding* won the 2021 PEN America Jean Stein Book Award.

This event suitable for youth 12+. It will be recorded and available on FAN's website and YouTube channel.

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